

Emergency nurses' knowledge about pressure ulcer care

Authors:

Mojtaba Senmar, Razie Alipour, Fatemeh Yousefi, Parisa Abdollahi, Mahsa sadat Moosavi and Hossein Rafiei

It is necessary for nurses in all healthcare settings to have knowledge about pressure ulcers (PUs). All emergency nurses working in three educational hospitals affiliated to Qazvin University of Medical Sciences were invited to participate in a study to assess PU knowledge. A questionnaire consisting of 41 questions categorised into three sections (PU onset and staging, PU characteristics and preventive interventions related to PUs) was used. Nurses' knowledge was considered good if they correctly answered >90% of the questions. Forty-four nurses participated (32 female; average age 29.4±5.5 years; average clinical experience 5.1±2.5 years). Thirty-three nurses (75.3%) gave correct responses to all 41 items. Of the three sections, 36 nurses (82.7%) answered all the questions on PU onset correctly, 62.5% got all of the PU characteristics questions right and 80.7% correctly answered the PU prevention questions. Emergency nurses do not have sufficient knowledge about PU care. An educational programme is needed to improve their knowledge.

Pressure ulcers (PUs) are a costly problem in all healthcare settings across the world (Bääth et al, 2016). Patients with PUs suffer from severe pain, high levels of distress and infection, have reduced quality of life, longer hospital stays and a higher mortality rate (Mallah et al, 2015; Muntlin Athlin et al, 2016). Factors increasing the risk of PU development include physical immobility, high levels of force on the skin, friction and shear, moisture, impaired sensory perception, poor nutrition, dehydration, obesity, haematological measures [AQ1: such as?], higher age, comorbidity, cigarette smoking, skin tearing due to oedema and tissue perfusion and oxygenation impairment (Coleman et al, 2013; Gardiner et al, 2016; Santos et al, 2016)

Currently, for the prevention of PUs, emphasis is on the early detection of patients who are at high risk [AQ2: Please provide a reference for this statement]. Emergency nurses have an important role in preventing and managing PUs, but to be successful nurses need a high level of knowledge about PUs. Although a number of studies have examined nurses' knowledge about PUs (Aydin and Karadağ, 2012; Iranmanesh et al, 2013; Gul et al, 2017; Miller et al, 2017), studies assessing emergency nurses' knowledge are limited. Previous studies have generally examined nurses' knowledge about PUs in hospital wards, especially intensive care units. In a Saudi Arabian study examining healthcare workers'

knowledge of PUs, it was found that nurses had a moderate level of knowledge in this clinical area (Kaddourah et al, 2016). In a Belgian study of hospital nurses' knowledge about PU prevention, a deficit was identified (Beeckman et al, 2011). The present study was designed and conducted in three Qazvin University of Medical Sciences hospitals to address the lack of information about the level of emergency nurses' knowledge about PUs.

Methods

This cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted from 2016 to 2017 in Qazvin, Iran. All emergency nurses who worked in three educational hospitals affiliated to Qazvin University of Medical Sciences were invited to participate. Before taking part, emergency nurses were provided with information about the goals, methods and who would conduct the training sessions. [AQ3: Was training provided or was it who would conduct the questionnaire sessions?] They were also informed that participation was voluntary. All questionnaires remained anonymous to ensure confidentiality. The inclusion criteria were a willingness to participate and having 6 months' or more clinical experience. [AQ4: What were the exclusion criteria?] The study was assessed and approved by the ethics board of Qazvin University of Medical Sciences.

The questionnaires were distributed by two

Mojtaba Senmar, Razie Alipour, Fatemeh Yousefi, Parisa Abdollahi, Mahsa sadat Moosavi and Hossein Rafiei, Student Research Committee, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran